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2021-05-27

## Freshwater Turtles in the Willamette Valley: An Investigation on Basking Behavior and Abiotic Factors Contributing to Turtle Presence

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### Recommended Citation

Broome, Summer; Ringo, Jennifer; and Ricci, Emi, "Freshwater Turtles in the Willamette Valley: An Investigation on Basking Behavior and Abiotic Factors Contributing to Turtle Presence" (2021). *Academic Excellence Showcase Proceedings*. 316.

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# **Freshwater Turtles in the Willamette Valley: An Investigation on Basking Behavior and Abiotic Factors Contributing to Turtle Presence**

Summer Broome, Emi Ricci, Jennifer Ringo, and Gareth Hopkins

There are three freshwater turtle species in the Willamette Valley: the native Western Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta*), the native Western Pond Turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), and the invasive Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). These focal species were the center of a trail-camera-based investigation on basking behavior at four locations within Minto Brown Park in Salem, centered around research on basking structure usage, distribution, and identification of temperature and weather patterns which could predict turtle presence. Understanding basking behavior and presence of all turtle species is pertinent to the persistence of the native species, which are in decline. Through analyzing over 15,000 camera images, we found species-specific preferences for basking structure type, location, temperature and weather, which will all provide critical information for future management of both native threatened, and invasive turtles in our region.

Zoom Link: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84056230843?pwd=UWZkZkVjQmxWcDI0REdlMHBwQkwxUT09>

Meeting ID: 840 5623 0843

Passcode: mvu2Gu

Selected Date and Time: June 10 2021; 11:00 am